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14 September 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Survey of Current Intelligence Publications

1. A couple of weeks ago I mentioned to you that [redacted] group was completing a study on publications. This has now been done and is attached. It is not quite as formidable to get through as it would appear and Jack has marked the essential parts with red ink and paper clips to ease your way through it.

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2. My own reaction to it is that while 316 current intelligence publications is a frightening figure, a closer look at what they are and what they purport to do is more reassuring. For example, 146 of these are published by the various Unified and Specified Commands and 90 of them by NSA, for a total of 236. The publications issued by the overseas commands are, for the most part, for internal command distribution, although some copies inevitably trickle back to Washington; and the majority of the NSA publications are concerned with very narrow subject matter, published almost certainly as the result of specific request, and usually meant for an audience of working level analysts. We can thus say that over 2/3 of all the publications studied fall within these two broad categories.

3. The study does mention, although without great emphasis, the problem which has been perennially with us--NSA's regular distribution to high-level consumers in the Government of raw COMINT and the accompanying problem of its unsophisticated assimilation and the impression it leaves of duplicative reporting when it becomes a part of finished intelligence. That situation hasn't changed and either you instruct us to tackle it head on or leave it as is for the time being. My own feeling is there are more important things to worry about, particularly with [redacted] recent accession, and that we leave this alone for now.

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4. Another rather reassuring finding is that there is a minimum of straight out duplication. This issue is discussed in detail in the report, starting on page 27, and it is perhaps sufficient to say here [redacted]

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that duplicative reporting per se is a very minor factor in the community.

5. None of the above answers the question of whether there are just too many publications because that can only be answered by a detailed study of the requirement which produces each one, which would go well beyond the capability of this study. This compilation only looks at publications which appear regularly and does not attempt to comment on the heavy volume of ad hoc publishing on a wide variety of subjects, prompted either by a specific consumer request or generated solely on the producer's initiative. If you, for example, have the impression that the community goes to print on too many topics, then the latter category of ad hoc publication would have to be studied as well as a hard individual look at the publications included here.

6. What Jack and I would particularly appreciate, after you have had a look at this, is whether you agree with these general conclusions, believe the study has gone far enough or whether there is some different action you would like us to take. If you generally agree with what has been done, our next step is to distribute to the NSCIC Working Group members and it will then be a topic of discussion when we meet, as scheduled on 3 October. You have seen more paper, of all kinds, over the years than we have and it is your instincts on these matters that we would particularly like to plumb.

(Signed) Bronson Tweedy

Bronson Tweedy
D/DCI/IC

Attachment

IC:BT:dm

Distribution:

Original w/att. - DCI
1 w/o - ER
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